

Claims (amended copy)

I claim:

1. A unitary connector that retrofits onto existing buildings and helps prevent hurricane and earthquake damage by positively connecting a roof to a wall, comprising:

- a. a base web;
- b. [an] offset, angled, [top] blocking webs, each having a generally right angled bend[s] forming a rafter tab[s];
- c. said base web and each said [top] blocking web connected by an offset web;
- d. said offset web having an acute angled bend[s] attached to said base web and another acute angled bend attached to said [top] blocking web.

2. The connector of claim 1 wherein said base web having a generally flat, generally long-horizontal rectangular shape, with a plurality of nail holes [as a means for retrofitting] for attachment to an exterior wall, and into [an] underlying structural members.

3. The connector of claim 1 wherein said offset web connected to said base web by a first generally horizontal bend bent at an acute angle.

4. The connector of claim 3 wherein said offset web connected to said [top] blocking web by a second generally horizontal bend bent at an acute angle.

5. The connector of claim 4 wherein said first and said second angled bends, attached to opposite ends of said offset web, having generally unequal, acute bends in opposite directions [as an offsetting means], thereby offsetting said [top] blocking web [away] at an acute angle from said base web, [and] thereby avoiding frieze boards and blocking on a house.

6. The connector of claim 5 wherein said [unequal] first and said second acute bends and said offset web forming said base web and said [top] blocking web unparallel to each

other [as a means of] forming a buttress between a rafter of said roof, said wall, and underlying structural members, thereby preventing said exterior wall from detaching from said roof rafter.

7. The connector of claim 1 wherein said [top] blocking web having said generally [vertical] right angle bends dividing said [top] blocking web into left and right blocking webs.

8. The connector of claim 7 wherein said right angle bends form rafter tabs, off each said left and right blocking web[s], that are generally vertical, parallel, and having a plurality of nail holes for attach[ing]ment to the sides of said roof rafter.

9. The connector of claim 7 wherein said [blocking webs] connector having an offset web, and acute angles, thereby placing said blocking webs generally parallel to frieze boards and blocking on said house, and said blocking webs having a plurality of nail holes [as an attaching means] for attachment onto said frieze boards and blocking.

10. The connector of claim 1 wherein said base web, said rafter tabs, and said [top] blocking webs having attaching means to an existing house [by a plurality of nail holes, as a means] for securing together an exterior wall and underlying structural members, to a roof rafter, and frieze boards and blocking, thereby preventing [wind and seismic damage] uplift and lateral movement from a hurricane and earthquake.

[11. An apparatus that retrofits onto existing buildings and helps prevent hurricane and earthquake damage by positively connecting the top of a roof to a wall, comprising:

- a. a base web;
- b. an offset, angled top web having right angled bends, called rafter upright bends, forming rafter tabs;
- c. said base web and said top web connected by an offset web;
- d. said offset web having acute angled bends attached to said base web and said top web;

- e. said rafter tabs having right angle bends, called sheathing bends, perpendicular to said rafter upright bends, forming strengthening tabs;
- f. said rafter tabs dividing said top web into blocking webs;
- g. said blocking webs having right angle bends, called sheathing bends, perpendicular to said rafter upright bends, forming sheathing tabs;
- h. said sheathing tab folded on top of said strengthening tab;
- i. said sheathing tabs and said strengthening tabs having a bolt hole;
- j. a generally rectangular roof plate having a plurality of bolt holes;
- k. nuts and bolts.

12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said roof plate having a predetermined area and a generally flat shape for conforming to an outside surface of [said] a roof.

13. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said roof plate having said plurality of bolt holes spaced greater than a width of a roof rafter, providing a straddling means, whereby a roof rafter underlying said roof, having bolt placement on either side of said rafter.

14. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said apparatus having attaching means to the top of a roof by said roof plate, and said rafter tabs, said top web, said base web, and said sheathing tabs having attachment to a rafter, frieze board, top plate, exterior wall, and said roof plate respectively, thereby forming a strong connection between the top of a roof and the wall of a house, preventing wind and seismic damage.]